



GENESEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

# Drug Court Works

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Diane Melton, Project Director

## *Your Success Is Our Reward . . . . .*

### WHAT IS A DRUG COURT?

Drug Court is a specialized court docket designed to assist individuals with substance abuse addiction by coordinating treatment delivery with judicial oversight. The first drug court docket started in Genesee County on January 1, 2001. Our program mission is: *Assisting drug-addicted offenders/parents to achieve positive lifestyle change by providing efficient delivery of treatment services through a collaborative community effort of Therapeutic Justice.* The purpose of drug courts is to reduce criminal offending without jeopardizing public safety, and increase trial time. The Genesee County drug court rehabilitation efforts include longer retention in substance abuse treatment, reduced substance dependence and abuse, reduced recidivism, improved employment or educational opportunities, and improved mental or physical health outcomes.

As of 2005, there are 1,550 operational drug courts in the United States. Drug Courts are non-adversarial and are managed by a multi-disciplinary team. Drug Courts are a partnership that occurs between the judicial system and the substance abuse treatment system. The judges make judicial decisions, and treatment determines diagnosis, medical needs and assists with health decisions. Drug Court ensures a client receives the appropriate level of care, or adequate dose of treatment. Relapse is part of addiction and the drug court judges impose sanctions for all infractions, yet positive reinforcement is granted as clients receive program incentives when they demonstrate abstinence and program compliance.

Program eligibility is based upon non-violent offenders before the Court on new charges, probation or parole violations, or charges of parental abuse or neglect. We are very proud to announce that we have the most comprehensive drug court in the Country! Specialized dockets include adult felony drug court with Judge Richard B. Yuille presiding, family dependency treatment court with Judge Duncan M. Beagle presiding, juvenile drug court with Judge John Gadola presiding, and sobriety court with Judge Larry Stecco presiding. Judge Beagle presides over the VERY FIRST operational family drug court in the state of Michigan. WE THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!!!

### AGENCY COLLABORATION:

Genesee County Drug Court is very fortunate to have a strong foundation through the support of many agencies that collaboratively make this project a success. Thank you for your support: The Genesee County Prosecutor's Office, Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center, Genesee County Community Mental Health, Michigan Department of Corrections, Genesee County Community Corrections, Michigan Department of Human Services, and New Paths, Inc.

### DRUG COURT FUNDING:

Funding is provided by the United States Department of Justice (Bureau of Justice Assistance), Michigan Supreme Court, and Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy.

### SPEAKERS BUREAU:

Starting Spring 2007 if you, or your organization, would like drug court to present at your next scheduled meeting, please contact us to schedule a date. (810) 424-4412 or [drugcourt@co.genesee.mi.us](mailto:drugcourt@co.genesee.mi.us)

# DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 1,550 operational drug courts in the United States, including adult drug courts, family drug courts, juvenile drug courts, mental health courts, prisoner re-entry courts and domestic violence courts
- The very first drug court was formed in 1989 in Miami (Dade County), Florida; Judge Terry Terrell presiding
- Rapid drug court program engagement increases the probability of retention and graduation
- Retaining people in treatment produces better outcomes. Drug Courts help retain offenders in treatment.
- 60% of offenders drop out of substance abuse treatment within the first 30 days
- Treatment completion rates are VERY low: In Genesee County, 2.4% complete long-term residential; 25.2% complete short-term residential and 31.9% complete outpatient counseling.
- 60% of drug court clients attend 12 months or more of treatment (national average)
- Health literature claims we've under treated substance abuse
- The typical waiting time for a residential treatment bed is 3-4 weeks. (Drug Courts work collaboratively to eliminate wait lists).
- 80% of parental abuse or neglect petitions filed by the State of Michigan, Department of Human Services include allegations of substance abuse.
- In 2006, 44.2% of Category 1 removals (Children at Intensive Risk if left in the home) involved drug/alcohol abuse of a parent as a removal condition.
- In 2006, an average of 1,658 children were in out of home placements (as compared to 600 children in 1996).

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## YOUR TAX DOLLARS:



- The Genesee County Jail costs \$68. per day per inmate
- State Prison Costs per inmate: \$27,000. /annually
- Juvenile delinquent residential placement costs: \$125. - \$250. per day based upon individual service needs



- Average cost of foster care per child is \$5,200.-\$6,400./annually
- For every \$1 invested for staff time, supplies, monitoring, etc., the California State-wide evaluation showed 8 of 9 sites produced \$3.50 in savings. Main explanation: Drug court participants average lower recidivism rates leading to avoided future cases and savings for all affected agencies.



- Average cost of participant in Genesee County Drug Court: \$2,400.



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## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

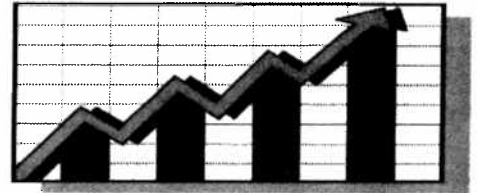
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals (MADCP) Conference will be held February 13-14, 2007 at the Lansing Center in Lansing, Michigan.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) Conference will be held June 13-16, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

# HOW DO DRUG COURTS WORK? WHICH PRACTICES ARE MOST EFFECTIVE?

- Substance abuse treatment (Maximum clinical efficacy is One Year.)
  - Early identification and placement
  - Legal incentives to succeed
  - Judicial supervision (Participants consistently point to the role of the judge as important to recovery)
  - Multiple “second chances”
  - Intermediate sanctions and rewards (Each compliance/infraction receives a response. Responses are imposed SOON after the compliance/infraction)
  - Frequent drug testing
  - Case management
  - Collaborative multi-disciplinary team approach
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## DRUG COURT NATIONAL AVERAGES:

- National average graduation rate: 50% (Genesee County adult felony is 56%)
- National average substance abuse treatment retention: 66% retained after one year (GENERAL TREATMENT POPULATION: Only 10-13% retained after one year)
- Reduction in recidivism: An average of 10-13 percentage points less than Department of Corrections recidivism rates
- National Average Recidivism rate (Department of Corrections): 46%
- Average recidivism of drug court participants:
  - 9% of Program Graduates-one year post-program
  - 29% of Program Failures-one year post-program
  - 27.5% for all Program Participants-two year post-program
- Average time period a successful graduate participates in drug court:



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## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THESE WEBSITE RESOURCES:

- National Association of Drug Court Professionals and National Drug Court Institute: [www.nadcp.org](http://www.nadcp.org)
- Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals: [www.madcp.org](http://www.madcp.org)
- Center for Court Innovation: [www.courtinnovation.org](http://www.courtinnovation.org)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse: [www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov)
- Bureau of Justice Assistance: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA)

## TRUE TALENT

It excites, it pains, it hurts, and confuses the brain; It tempts and can tease, it holds on tightly, begging to please. It taunts and torments, holding you hostage and deceives.

It seduced us and made us its slave, it has sent much stronger to their grave. Some of us have swindled our families just for a buck, some have turned into something vile and corrupt. We've stolen for that narcotic charm.

All of us here have quit before we gave up our body and souls, before we gave up our morals, our conscience and our heart. And if we didn't quit we'd all be with that drug until death do us part.

Our gut tied in a knot, our jingling nerves screaming for just one more shot. The hot chills, the cold sweats, and the withdrawal pain. But, its all worth it in the end for what we will gain.

Today we've realized the monster we've grown, and solemnly promise to leave it alone. It's put us through hell, even locked some of us in a cell. Some of us felt like dying but no matter what we never gave up, we always kept fighting. **WE SURVIVED!**

There's no turning back, there's no room for regret. As we all go forward on this path we have chose, our past is a chapter in our life that we can now close.

Today, we're free and drug court was the key. Drug-free, that's how all of us here are gonna be.

--Authored by a Drug Court Participant



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## ADULT DRUG COURT GRADUATION



On November 16, 2006, Judge Richard B. Yuille held a drug court graduation with four (4) successful program participants. Successful graduation criterion includes a minimum of one year participation, six (6) months abstinence, no re-arrests or new criminal charges, completion of all recommended substance abuse treatment, involvement in education or employment opportunities, payment of all fees, fines and restitution, and disposal of all Court obligations such as outstanding tickets, warrants, pending misdemeanor matters, etc. Our guest speaker for the event was Daryl Turner, December 2, 2006 inductee into the Genesee County Athletic Hall of Fame. Mr. Turner is a former Seattle Seahawks player, Michigan State and Flint Southwestern High School grad, and endured a long time struggle with drugs. We wish the very best to our graduates, one of which had been abusing crack cocaine for 22 years, and are happy to give these individuals a fresh start.

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## EDUCATIONAL SERIES

HBO will be featuring a 14-part series "The ADDICTION Project" debuting on March 15, 2007. (9:00-10:30 p.m. ET/PT). All films will initially be offered during a **FREE** HBO preview weekend from Thursday, March 15 to Sunday, March 18, 2007.

This project is an initiative to help people understand that addiction is a treatable brain disease and that millions of Americans are in long-term recovery. One in four Americans has a family member who is struggling with addiction. Over 80% of people with substance abuse or dependence disorder started using before age 18. Currently, addiction affects 22.2 million Americans.

Yet, only 9% are receiving the treatment they need. Treatments for addiction are now as effective as treatments for other chronic relapsing diseases such as diabetes, hypertension or asthma.

The program will showcase the current advances in brain imaging science that make it possible to see inside the brain of an addicted person, pinpoint the parts of the brain affected by addiction, and see how the addict's brain differs. Additional topics covered will include: the nature of addiction in the workplace, and the protracted insurance battles waged by families, as well as the difficulty of finding and getting adequate treatment.

# DRUG COURT FACT SHEET:

## KEYS GOALS OF DRUG COURT:

- Case Processing Efficiency
- Public Safety
- Reduced Recidivism
- Offender Rehabilitation
  - a) longer substance abuse treatment retention
  - b) reduced substance dependence and abuse
  - c) improved employment or educational opportunities
  - d) improved mental or physical health outcomes

## DRUG COURT NATIONAL AVERAGES:

*National Averages are published by the:*

1. *United States Department of Justice*
2. *National Institute of Justice*
3. *Center for Court Innovation*
4. *National Drug Court Institute*
5. *Model State Drug Court Legislation Committee*
  - There are 1,550 operational drug courts in the United States
  - The very first drug court was formed in 1989 in Miami (Dade County), Florida; Judge Terry Terrell presiding
  - National Average graduate rate: 50%
  - National Average graduate participation time period: 13-16 months

## Genesee County Drug Court

932 Beach Street-2nd Floor

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(810) 424-4488 (fax)

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## A LOOK AT COSTS:

- Jail Costs per inmate: \$68./day; or \$24,820./annually
- State Prison Costs per inmate: \$75./day; or \$27,375./annually
- Average cost of participant in Genesee County Drug Court: \$2,400.
- Juvenile delinquent placement: Genesee County Regional Detention Center is \$130. per day. Other residential placement per day costs range between \$125. - \$250.
- Cost of care per child in Foster Care: \$14. - \$17./day; or \$5,197. - \$6,420./annually
- Genesee County requested \$3,170,500. from the child care fund in 2004 to provide services for children
- National study (California Statewide Evaluation): For every \$1.00 invested for staff time, supplies, monitoring, etc., 8 of 9 sites evaluated produced \$3.50 in savings. Main explanation: drug court participants average lower recidivism rates leading to avoided future cases and savings for all affected agencies.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE:**

- Genesee County health department substance abuse assessments report the following primary drugs of choice:
  - (a) Alcohol 35.7%
  - (b) Crack Cocaine 29.4%
  - (c) Marijuana 17.9%
  - (d) Opiates 16.7%
- Health literature reports we've under-treated substance abuse
- 80% of parental abuse/neglect petitions filed by the State of Michigan, Department of Human Services include allegations of substance abuse
- In 2006, 44.2% of Category 1 removals (Children at Intensive Risk if left in the home) involved drug/alcohol abuse of a parent as a removal condition
- In 2006, an average of 1,658 children were in out of home placements (as compared to 600 children in 1996)

## **RECIDIVISM:**

- National Average Recidivism rate (Department of Corrections): 46%
- National Average reduction in recidivism with drug court is 10-13 percentage points less
- National Average Recidivism rate of drug court participants one year post-program participation:
  - (a) 9%-Program Graduates
  - (b) 29%-Program Failures
- Two year post-program recidivism rate:  
27.5% for all program participants

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT:**

### **a) Retention:**

- 60% of offenders drop out of substance abuse treatment within the first 30 days (national average)
- Retaining people in treatment produces better outcomes. Drug Courts increase treatment retention.
- National average drug court substance abuse treatment retention: 66% retained after one year (General treatment population: Only 10-13% retained after one year)
- 60% of drug court clients attend 12 months or more of treatment (national average)
- 50% of clients who complete 12 months or more of treatment remain abstinent for an additional year following treatment (national average)

### **b) Completion:**

- Genesee County health department reports show low treatment completion rates.
- (a) 31.9% complete outpatient counseling
- (b) 25.2% complete short-term residential
- (c) 2.4% complete long-term residential

### **c) Wait Lists:**

- National Average waiting time for residential bed: 3-4 weeks
- Genesee County health department reports delays; an average of 29 days
- Drug Courts reduce wait lists through collaborative agency agreements

## GENESEE COUNTY DRUG COURT:

- Program Length:  
12-18 months-Adult Felony  
9-12 months-Family Dependency
- Goals: Timely and appropriate levels of substance abuse treatment, reduce drug use, and reduce recidivism through incentives and sanctions
- Drug testing frequency:  
Maximum: 2/3 times per week  
Minimum: 3 times per month
- Drug Courts were formerly legislated in Michigan through Senate Bill 998 on January 1, 2005
- A four-year average of urinalysis screens showed 81.3% clean for all substances in the adult felony drug court program
- Graduate rate (adult felony): 56%
- Graduation requirements: 6 months abstinence, no new criminal or parental allegations 6 months prior to graduation, and successful completion of treatment
- Adult felony Recidivism rate (as published by *Dr. A.M. Reeves, Mott Community College*):

Year 2001:	15%
Year 2002:	20%
Year 2003:	9%
Year 2004:	6%

## WHICH PRACTICES ARE MOST EFFECTIVE?:

- Substance abuse treatment (Maximum clinical efficacy is One Year.)
- Early identification and placement (increases probability of retention and graduation)
- Legal incentives to succeed (Participants are more likely to complete treatment when they face more serious legal consequences in the event of failure)
- Judicial supervision (Participants consistently point to the role of the judge as important to recovery)
- Multiple "second chances" (Only 14% of program graduates do not relapse during program participation)
- Intermediate sanctions and rewards (Each compliance/infraction receives a response. Responses are imposed SOON after the compliance/infraction)
- Frequent drug testing
- Case management
- Collaborative team approach